

realencouragement

Lakeshore Community Church

realencouragement.org

Volume 13, No. 3

The Deep End

With much regret, we have to acknowledge that Summer is coming to an end. As we start closing our pools, parking our campers and returning to the routine, many people face big spiritual decisions.

For a host of reasons— some valid, others less so— some people have spent very little of the summer at church. As September rolls around, the big decision is whether the summer absence from church will become a continued absence, or whether getting back into weekly church attendance will be a fresh new priority. Ultimately it really is not a decision about church alone. It is a reflection of how important God is in our lives and how vital spiritual growth is to us. Sadly, too many people's lives don't reflect a very hearty desire.

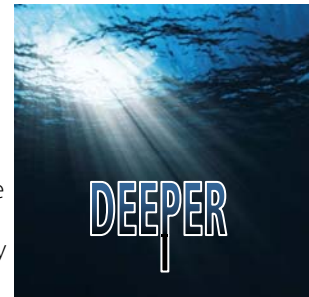
I sometimes wonder why some people seem to put significant energy into their recreational lives, but not nearly as much energy into their spiritual lives. It's like they want to stay in the shallow end of God's swimming pool instead of enjoying the increased level of joy and excitement that His deep end offers.

This Fall, we are going to helping you swim and enjoy the deep end of God's pool... if you will jump in. We want to help you grow closer to God, His Word (the Bible) and His people through a few key events:

1. **Our Sunday services will start the week after Labor Day (September 7) with a new two week series, *Deeper*.** After that we'll deliver a series on parenting, *The Creature From Another Planet*, and follow that with a series on living full lives entitled, *Finishing Well* (message titles are on the back page).
2. **We'll kick-off our Community Group year at the September 7 service and small groups will start the following week.** You can sign up for groups at church and experience the "community, care and changed-life" that hundreds have enjoyed.
3. **We'll continue our series through Romans** on the alternate weeks of Community Group weeks at Common Ground. (dates and topics are on the back page).
4. **Vision Night 2008 will be held (in lieu of Common Ground) on Thursday, September 18 at 7pm.** We'll have two big pieces of news to pass on at this gathering, which is open to everyone who calls Lakeshore home. First, we'll share results of the "Reveal" survey that we took at the beginning of the year. Second, we will have exciting news on *The Lakeshore Community Center* construction plans! Mark your calendars now and plan to attend.

Where are you in God's pool? Outside looking at it? Dipping your toes in? Staying in the shallow end, or enjoying the deep end? Check out the deep end. That's where God's at!

Vince



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Weary No More



By Mike Knox

The "Weary No More" series that ran from May 11 to June 21, 2008 was an interesting and soul reviving series for me. It was not a highly publicized series, but it reached out and made a difference to many of us.

"Weary No More" was about how we all need to rest according to the Fourth Commandment:

"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work..." (Exodus 20:8-11 NIV)

This is not a suggestion, something you can put off or take for granted. It is a Commandment from God. What happens when we ignore this Commandment? Like the others, no good can from it.

We learned the results of not taking a Sabbath day will show up in different ways. First, our physical health will be affected. We will start feeling tired and stressed; possibly leading to much more serious health issues. Second, our emotional well being will start to show the ugly side of our personality. Our "buttons" will get pushed a little sooner. Third, our relationships will begin to suffer. We will start to ignore the pleas of our loved ones to spend time with them. We become obsessed with getting things done for *us* instead of taking time to truly experience what God wants us to.

As this happens, we ultimately suffer a relationship breakdown with God. We start to blame God for our weariness, we ignore Jesus' teachings reinforcing our need for rest, the Holy Spirit starts to be a far away voice.

For me Sunday is my Sabbath. It is a day I truly feel is my day to rest. I love being awake in the morning on a Sunday, it is so much quieter then any other day. The roads are deserted and the ride to church at 8:30 am is stress free. My wife and I enjoy the service, laugh at Pastor Vince's jokes, and really get to absorb the message because we are able to focus on it. After the service we mingle with our friends, have a cup of coffee and reflect on what we have heard. After we leave on the ride home we will talk about the message and maybe even laugh at one of Pastor Vince's jokes again. Being rested really allows me to hear God's words and understand them.

On Sundays when God wants my wife and I to be alone with Him we take our dog Tucker to Turning Point Park which is off Lake Ave and we can see the beauty of God's creations. The Genesee River and the surrounding park are full of His wonderful work. The park is usually quiet and we can let Tucker run free, and during each season there is something beautiful to see. You feel as if you are in the middle of the woods miles away from the city.

"God saw all that he had made, and it was very good." (Genesis 1:31a NIV)

The rest of the day we try and spend with family or our best friends. We get to talk, visit with people that we don't see as much as we wish, eat a good meal and truly relax. It makes it a lot easier to wake up Monday morning.

This series came at a very good time for me. Our family was experiencing some very difficult times and I was starting to feel the effects of the stress. I learned to trust in the Lord for what will happen and know He will look after us.

Everyone needs to make sure to take time every week to be rejuvenated by taking a Sabbath and putting aside the day to day issues we face. By following the Fourth Commandment and using the skills we learned; I'll be "Weary No More".

Real Encouragement is published quarterly as a ministry of Lakeshore Community Church.

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Next Edition
Articles for the next edition of Real Encouragement are due by or before October 31. Submitting articles and photos early is appreciated. Submit text and photos by email to submissions@

Lakeshore Softball



By Paul Clark

The Lakeshore softball teams are concluding their third season in the Suburban Church league. While they didn't finish at the top of standings, coach Jeff Frey was impressed with the talent level of the teams. Lakeshore's two co-ed teams even met head-to-head twice this season.

"It's about fun and fellowship," says Jeff and though "the league is competitive the primary goal is to bring people together." Softball is a great vehicle to get folks introduced to church and, according to recent studies, involving *men* in church-related activities is an excellent way to keep a church healthy.

Jeff was instrumental in starting a team at his former church and when he came to Lakeshore he knew he had to stay involved in softball. Softball brings people from outside the church into an atmosphere that emphasizes Christian beliefs, outreach and personal development.

Lakeshore fields a men's team and two co-ed teams, with players aged 14 and over. Ray Kaforey "came out of baseball retirement" to play and feels that "watching the kids progress is exciting...fabulous!" Lakeshore teen Will Strowe has played on the team for three years and "even though we're a fairly new team we had fun and are getting better every year".

Annie Cash offers a woman's perspective on the league. "It's a testament to our coaches that the Lakeshore teams encourage teens and women to play, without so much emphasis on quotas." This reinforces the goal of growth over win-at-all-costs attitudes.

League rules require that teams pray together and Jeff says "it's easy to pray together *before* a game, but it's hard to pray with a team after they just tromped you!" As the teams grow together, they hope to take prayer to another level next year (and that doesn't necessarily mean praying for more wins!).

Sportsmanship is truly emphasized and teams were deeply challenged after the recent death of a local softball player. The league requested that all teams pray for the man's family and this tragic incident illustrated the need for Christian values and sportsmanship in the community.

As the boys (and girls) of summer bid farewell to the season, they look ahead to next year and invite you to join them. Players and coaches are always welcome so please contact Jeff Frye, Pastor Cory Hunneyman, or Jamie Owen if you feel like getting your mitt out of the attic. Play ball!



1 of 3 LCC teams



Batter up!!!



The Fans

Home Improvements Update

By Pastor Herb

Our Home Improvement campaign is one hundred twenty-six weeks into the three year monthly giving (through July 31, 2008). Our pledges totaled \$771,722 composed of \$75,140 in up-front gifts and \$696,582 over three years (weekly, monthly, annual and special pledges).

To date we have received \$592,182 consisting of \$77,372 up-front gifts and \$514,810 toward the 3 year total. Percentage-wise, we have received 77% of the total pledged, 103% of pledged up-front gifts, and 74% of the 3 Year total pledge. Using the three-year time (target = 135/156) we are 81% into the campaign (refer to table below)

HI PLEDGE/ACTUAL TABLE

	Pledge	Up Front	Over 3 Years
Pledge	\$771,722	\$75,140	\$696,632
Actual	\$592,182	\$77,372	\$514,810
Actual TD Percent	77%	103%	74%
Target TD Percentage	87%	100%	87%



Talk About Trust

By Mike Knox

The Ignite Student Ministries took an awesome trip on June 6th & 7th to the Houghton College ropes course located in Houghton, NY. The trip started off with camping Friday night and the ropes course on Saturday. Pastor Cory said the trip was a “great experience—[the students] did learn lots about trust, teamwork, and encouraging others. It was good!”



Ignite Students

Looks like fun. I just might have to try it myself!

The outing was to encourage trust. As you can see you had to be there for your partner and trust that your partner was there for you.



Ignite Student Leadership Teams:

By Paul Clark

Youth pastor Cory Hunneyman is equipping Junior and Senior high students for leadership effectiveness with a six-week summer program to develop Music, Technical and Drama teams.

The goal of the program is to develop teams that will lead Ignite Student Ministries in authentic worship through song, scripture, prayer, media presentations and drama that illuminate and illustrate the truths of Scripture. The team will lead their peers at the *Urgent* Summer Retreat, August 27-29 and on Thursday nights beginning this fall.

“The key”, according to Pastor Cory “is *commitment*”. Team members must make a committed effort to attend the Monday night meetings, work hard, and give 100%. Dedication is more important than raw talent “and we can work out the rough spots”. Team members are expected to live a lifestyle worthy of others in the youth group.

As part of their leadership training, team members will develop their “Time Alone With God” through scripture study and discussion, a philosophy embraced by Justin Lane (guitar and vocals) who affirms; “I just want to worship God”.

Adult volunteers that serve on Ministry teams and have a desire to share their experience with Lakeshore teens act as coaches. Shanna Hunneyman leads the music team with Dave Schindler, Dan Robillard and Paul Clark. Ray Hardaway works with the tech team. Anne Frey and Jim Strowe direct the Drama Team.

The band includes drums, bass, guitar, keyboards, horn and vocals and will prepare a worship set of about five songs, while regularly adding to their repertoire. Band members have made a promising debut and Jeff Johnson (keyboards and vocals) states that his mission is to do “whatever is needed” for the band.

The Tech team will program and run the mixing board, lights and media presentations.

Members of the Drama Team will have the opportunity to write and interpret scripts while performing for ISM gatherings.

All members will participate on the “Warm and Fuzzy Team” to create an atmosphere on Thursday nights that is friendly, warm and welcoming to newcomers. Everyone is expected to “go out of their way to make sure all students feel included as a part of the group”.

Pastor Cory believes “there are few things in life better than seeing teenagers leading their peers in ministry” and this program already begun to develop new leaders for Lakeshore Community Church. To find out more about Ignite Student Ministry and serving opportunities, please contact Pastor Cory Hunneyman.

Wildfires

By Pastor Cory Hunneyman

Wildfires are one of the world's most feared natural disasters. Without hesitation, they race through communities and habitats, leaving a trail of destruction behind. What's interesting about wildfires, beyond the intense power in the collective flames, is the fact that though only lit by a small spark, once ablaze, these fires can take weeks to control and months to extinguish. In a similar way, there are a number of potent influences in our lives and in our world that, if left unchecked, can develop into raging fires, determined to destroy the most important things in our lives. It doesn't take much to start these flames, but one thing's for sure...it's a whole lot easier to prevent them than to try to extinguish them!



Here in Ignite Student Ministries, we take the issues that face today's youth culture seriously, and we're striving to create an environment where students feel comfortable enough to process them while considering the ways of Jesus. Join us for this important series as we discuss various "wildfires" that can invade our lives if we're not careful.

ISM is here every Thursday night from 6:30-8:15pm for all students 6th thru 12th grade, complete with basketball, volleyball, ping-pong, video games, worship, drama, life challenging messages, discussion groups, and real relationships in an atmosphere of genuine care. We can't wait to see you there!

P.S. ISM is going to really get amped up this Fall, and we're pumped! Be sure to get

*Sign Language Interpretation
is available on Sunday's at
the 11:00am service only.*

Women of Faith: Infinite Grace

By Amy Mitchell

On June 6 and 7, 2008, the women of Lakeshore once again attended the Women of Faith conference at the Blue Cross Arena. This year's theme was "Infinite Grace." Women of Faith is the largest conference for women in the United States.

Highlights of the conference included the vocal talents of Sandi Patty, Natalie Grant, and Nicole C. Mullen. The messages of the conference—delivered with humor, heart, and wisdom—were delivered by speakers such as Patsy Clairmont and Luci Swindoll, among others. The conference was infused with praise and worship music, along with several one-woman dramas performed by Allison Allen.

Those who were able to attend the Friday night session were treated to a special appearance by Steve Arterburn, the man whose vision became the Women of Faith conference. His message about the depth of God's grace was inspiring.

The Women of Faith conference provided an opportunity for everyone in attendance to experience just how magnificent our God truly is. According to Roget's Thesaurus, some synonyms for "infinite" and "grace" include:

Infinite (adj.): boundless, endless, eternal.

Grace (n.): charity, mercy, leniency.

By very definition, God's grace is limitless. As a human race, we are utterly undeserving of such forgiveness. Yet God Himself, maker of the Heavens and the Earth, offers it to us. No wonder we call it amazing.

On Leaders and Rainbows



**LEADERSHIP
SUMMIT** August 7-8, 2008

By Andy Mitchell

This year's Leadership Summit was held on August 7 and 8 from 10am-6:30pm. Over 200 participants and dozens of Lakeshore Community Church volunteers came together to learn more about God's plan for leadership in today's world.

Gary Haugen, President and CEO of the International Justice Mission (ijm.org), gave an inspiring talk on day one of the summit. Please take the time to ask a friend who attended the Summit about this session. It was incredible.

Catherine Rohr started the Prison Entrepreneurship Program (pep.org) in Texas Prisons only four years ago, and it has already yielded incredible dividends. Over ninety-five percent of her graduates have successfully reintegrated into society after incarceration. Many of them have benefited from Catherine's Harvard MBA training and started their own businesses. On day two of the summit, she gave an interview with Jim Mellado. Just as Jim was to ask Catherine about her experience as a woman leading a prison ministry, she interrupted and with great energy mentioned that two backstage volunteers had mistaken her for another speaker's assistant. Then Catherine said she doubted Bill Hybels had even been asked, "What's it like to be a man in leadership?"

To close the Summit, Bill Hybels shared a talk entitled "Relentless," a character and leadership study of Mother Theresa. It was surprising to learn how patient and persistent Mother Theresa needed to be to gain permission from her superiors to travel to Calcutta, India. She also wrote frequently about how she wished she could sense and feel God's presence more, despite her deep devotion. But when she didn't feel God's love as fully as she wished, Mother Theresa wrote that she would love God more than he's ever been loved before. That is exactly the right attitude, but exactly the opposite of how I respond when God seems distant.

After an inspiring worship multimedia experience by Chris Tomlin called "God of This City," participants were dismissed. As I walked outside and looked at the sky over the parking lot, there was a huge rainbow in the sky, even as the sun shone down on the church. Another participant turned to a Lakeshore volunteer and said, "Nice job. Even the exit is perfect."

Why don't you plan to set aside **August 6 and 7, 2009** to learn more about leadership next year?

Real Encouragement Ministry Team Members!

Amy Mitchell, Leader

Paul Clark

Kim Jones

Mike Knox

Joann Lagona

Laura Russell

Debbie Secules

Anne Toomey

Thank you for your
contributing articles.



Our Troops

By Nancy Wright

God is so magnificent. He is gracious to impact people who are merely exposed to His work. How far will the ripple effect of our work for Christ go?

Standing at the counter in the Post Office in Charlotte, packages piled so high in front of us we could barely see the postal agent, we experienced an amazing example of God's grace as it rippled outward. It was noontime. We were sending care packages for our troops, goodies collected from generous Lakeshore folks. We included thankful and encouraging notes, reminding our troops of Christ's love for them.

The line behind us was growing longer by the minute. We heard a voice, that of the smiling postal agent, from behind the packages. "These packages are going to our soldiers. This is going to take about 15 minutes. I hope you won't mind waiting." We turned to look back at the line, now about 10 people long. Not one person left. Not one person frowned. Nothing but smiles and heads nodding. People patiently standing in honor of our troops.

At the end of the long wait, customs forms had been attached, packages weighed, postage stamped and the bill paid. We turned and thanked the ones in line for waiting. Although no one spoke in return, the smiles were still broad and the eyes loving. God had impacted their lives, and the fragrance of Christ was left behind.

Open Door Mission

By Mike Knox

Rochester NY – I learned about the Open Door Mission through friends of mine at Lakeshore. My wife, Kathleen, and I went there one night to see how they helped out on Monday nights.

The Open Door Mission has been in operation since 1952 and was started by John A. Keyes and Grant N. Speicher. Open Door is a Christian based organization that operates in downtown Rochester to assist those in need.

They are funded solely by donations from the community and volunteers help the staff serve those in need. I met Brother Harry and Avon the evening we went down to the 210 Main Street location. Brother Harry has been working at the mission for six years. He is a very friendly man with a good sense of humor. He really knew how to make us feel welcome.

Main Street serves as the soup kitchen, but they served much more than just soup. The night we were there the menu was sloppy joes, mac-n-cheese, salad, mixed vegetables and a dessert. The kitchen feeds on average 80 to 100 people each day.

The kitchen opens everyday at 4:00 pm for a coffee hour where those that come in socialize, play board games, use the phone, and have the chance to take a shower. The Open Door Mission is requesting special help this summer for donations to continue making those showers available. We take for granted this simple thing but for those that do not have access to one, don't.

When I got there I was put to work helping get the tables wiped down and setup for dinner. Around 7:15 pm Brother Harry asked everyone to put away the games and start setting up for the nightly service and dinner. The doors close at 7:30 pm and no one is allowed in after that. His message that night was the Bible is the Truth and how we need to read this and not be fooled by the many false teachings we hear every day.

After the service it was time to eat. Everyone there to eat sits down at the tables we prepared earlier and the volunteers serve dinner "restaurant style". I was put in charge of the serving the vegetables. Every table had one 64 oz. bottle of juice that was rationed carefully to make sure everyone got a glass full. Each plate was full by the time it made it to the thankful person there.

The staff also receives dinner. We also made sure those who were working and could not be there had plates made up for them. Once that was done anyone who wanted seconds could come up and refill their plate. There was nothing left over and another filling meal had been served.

As I was serving up dinner, I was reminded of Jesus feeding the five thousand with just five loaves of bread and two fish—yet all left full (Matthew 14:15-21).

The Open Door Mission does this every day and needs our help to keep this wonderful service operating. I was humbled by this experience and I thank God that he has blessed me with everything I have.

It is important to remember that helping others is part of our faith. The work I did felt easy and gave me a feeling of contentment I can not express. To learn more on how you can help go to their website at www.opendoormission.com or call them at (585) 454-6696.



From left to right Brian Hartman, Jacqueline Tyson are volunteers from Lakeshore and Avon is the kitchen manager.

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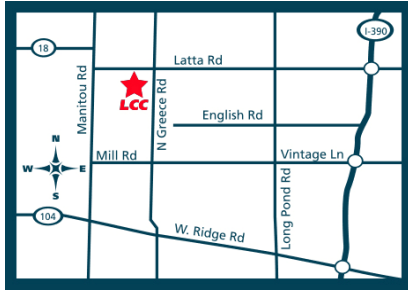




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Want an email update of all that's happening at Lakeshore? Sign up for "This Week At Lakeshore" via our website www.lakeshorechurch.org

SUNDAY SERVICES

Deeper

- 9/7 Deeper Waters (Community Group Kick Off)
9/14 Four Deepening Relationships Everyone Needs

The Creature from Another Planet

- 9/21 What Do I Do With This Child-Creature?
9/28 The Creature That Challenged The World
10/5 The Creature That Became A Teenager
10/12 The Creature That Goes Prodigal
10/19 The Creature That Has A Soul

Finishing Well

- 10/26 Let's Get It Re-Started
11/2 Perseverance Pays
11/9 Achieving Through Believing
11/9 One Thing You Won't Say In Heaven
11/16 For The Children, The Church, The Commission

COMMON GROUND MIDWEEK SERVICE

Romans: Just By Faith

- 9/4 God Is More Than Faithful (Rom. 11)
9/18 Vision Night (Get the latest on Lakeshore's plans)
10/2 Living A Transformed Life (Rom. 12)
10/16 God, Government And Godliness (Rom. 13)
11/6 Working With The Weak And The Strong
(Rom. 14:1-15:13)
11/20 More Disciples, Better Disciples (Rom. 15:14-33)
12/4 Playing Our Part In Spreading The Gospel (Rom. 16)